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Rural District of Maidstone

Annual Report for the Year, 1972

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. H. M. DUMMER
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

(As at 1st January, 1972)

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Mr. J. L. Short

Vice Chairman

Mr. J.V. Banks

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Mrs. E.J. Earli
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Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council:-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. F.H.M. Dummer,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. J.T. Cecil,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

G.W. White
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1ST ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

F.O. Elliott
M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

A.G. Sabin
M.A.P.H.I.

I.R. Russell

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

A.E. Wallace

DEPOT SUPERINTENDENT:

D.C. Mannering

PEST OFFICER:

T. Curties
(Retired 15/5/72)
E.E. Woodcock
(Commenced 5/6/72)

CHIEF CLERK:


Miss D. Fuller

CLERK:

Miss A.M. Humphrey
(Transferred 31/5/72)
Mrs. P. Knott
(Commenced 26/6/72)

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH:

Miss H. Wood
(Resigned 31/5/72)
Miss A.M. Humphrey
(Commenced 1/6/72)



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RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

Central Health Department,
13 Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

Telephone: Maidstone 54072

Public Health Department,
13A, London Road,
Maidstone.

Telephone: Maidstone 56871

To: The Chairman and Members of Maidstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixteenth Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Maidstone.

The year 1972 was a healthy one for your District. There was a low incidence of infectious disease, the infantile mortality rate was substantially below that of the country as a whole, and the number of new cases of tuberculosis amounted only to two giving a remarkably low incidence of 1 in 15,000 population.

Once again the main "killers" were heart disease and cancer, between them accounting for more than half the total number of deaths.

My thanks are due to Mr. White and the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal and co-operative work throughout the year. I have had the full support of all my colleagues in other Departments and this has facilitated the carrying out of the policies you have promulgated in Council.

The Chairman and Members of the Committee - as indeed of the whole Council - have consistently encouraged us throughout the year and this knowledge has greatly helped us.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health

20th June, 1973

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (In acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,487
Estimated resident population (1972)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,380
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate books)									
at the end of 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,011
Rateable value at the end of 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,080,290
Sum represented by 1p. rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£10,675

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

								Male	Female	Total
Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	274	257	531
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population										
Crude	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			18.1
Corrected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			16.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total										
live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			4.7

Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths										11.0
Total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	277	260	537

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	..	..						4	3	7
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births										13.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate										
live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			14.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate										
live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			0.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks										
per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..							9
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one										
week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..								9
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths										
under one week combined per 1,000 total live and										
stillbirths)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			20
Maternal mortality (including abortion)							..			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths							..			-

Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167	214	381
Death rate per 1,000 population										
crude	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			13.0
corrected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			11.1
Death rate for England and Wales	..	..	..							12.1

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Total
Measles	3	9	9	14	6	54	2	1	-	98
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	3	6	-	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
TOTALS	3	9	11	14	9	60	3	2	5	116

There was a disappointing increase in the number of measles cases in 1972 despite the vaccination scheme. There were, however, no unusual cases of infectious disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION, 1972

The following table shows figures for 1972 based on the return sent to the Department of Health and Social Security:-

Year of Birth	Primary						Reinforcing			
	Triple Antigen	Diph./Tet.	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Rubella	Triple Antigen	Diph./Tet.	Tetanus	Polio-myelitis
1972	4	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
1971	426	7	1	325	358	-	-	-	-	-
1970	108	6	-	121	119	-	2	-	-	-
1969	2	1	2	38	7	-	4	-	3	-
1968	1	-	1	18	2	-	1	22	2	52
1967	-	2	-	10	-	-	28	336	1	351
1965/1966	-	-	-	10	-	-	7	64	2	76
1956/1964	-	-	19	-	-	390	-	30	145	175
T O T A L	541	16	23	524	489	390	42	452	153	654

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION (Cont'd)

The figures for vaccination and immunisation against infectious diseases, have been well maintained. In particular 1972 showed an increase in the vaccination against measles and rubella but not as great as I had hoped. I am particularly glad to see that the protection against poliomyelitis is being sustained at a reasonably high level.

It is of vital importance that these levels are kept up in order that the community should have as high an immunity as can be reached.

FOOD POISONING

During 1972 five cases of food poisoning were formally notified, all of which proved on investigation to be positive. These notified cases involved one household.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1968

It was not found necessary in 1972 to issue an Order under the above Regulations.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

It was not found necessary during the year to take action under Section 47 of the above Regulations.

TUBERCULOSIS

I am indebted to Dr. A.P. Bentley, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the following details of the numbers of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic, which coincides with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone Rural District, Hollingbourn Rural District and Malling Rural District.

- (a) Number of contacts, seen during 1972 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis 198
- (b) Number of contacts examined during 1972 of cases notified prior to 1972 143
- (c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis -
- (d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis 1

AGE GROUPS (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

Once again the number of new cases, at 2, is extraordinarily low. The de-escalation of tuberculosis as one of the major causes of mortality is demonstrated in the table by a 'nil' return.

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past ten years is given below:-

1963	..	..	..	49
1964	..	..	..	50
1965	..	..	..	54
1966	..	..	..	59
1967	..	..	..	58
1968	..	..	..	62
1969	..	..	..	61
1970	..	..	..	74
1971	..	..	..	73
1972	..	..	..	77

Deaths from cancer in 1972, distributed according to sites:-

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of Oesophagus	0	1	1
Cancer of Stomach	6	1	7
Cancer of Intestine	10	7	17
Cancer of Larynx	0	0	0
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	12	2	14
Cancer of Breast	0	11	11
Cancer of Uterus	0	3	3
Cancer of Prostate	6	0	6
Leukaemia	1	2	3
Other sites	4	11	15
TOTALS	39	38	77

Age Groups	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	-	-
15 - 24	-	-
25 - 34	-	-
35 - 44	-	2
45 - 54	2	5
55 - 64	4	7
65 - 74	14	10
75 and over	19	14
TOTALS	39	38

INFANT MORTALITY

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Bronchiolitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Respiratory Failure	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormalities	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pulmonary Oedema	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	5	-	1	-	6	-	1	-	-	7

This very low infantile mortality at 13 per 1,000 compares favourably with the national average of 17. At least 3 of the above deaths were, in my opinion, entirely unavoidable.

TOTAL DEATHS, 1972

Cause	Male	Female
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	10	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	6	-
Leukaemia	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms	4	11
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	2	-
Anaemias	-	2
Mental disorders	-	1
Multiple sclerosis	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	3
Hypertensive disease	2	4
Ischaemic heart disease	47	46
Other forms of heart disease	8	11
Cerebrovascular disease	28	49
Other diseases of circulatory system	9	11
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	5	20
Bronchitis and emphysema	14	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Appendicitis	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	3
Diseases of skin	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Congenital anomalies	2	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	2
Ill defined conditions	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All Other Accidents	-	2
Suicide and self inflicted wounds	3	-
TOTALS	167	214

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector provides the following details and report on functions which come under his direct day to day control.

Many of the functions of the Department relating to preventative environmental health work is a matter of routine inspection. The year under review has been no exception and it is pleasing to note that the number of inspections in all aspects of the inspectors visits have been maintained.

No unusual problems have presented themselves during the year, although towards the latter part national notification was received concerning the outbreak of Swine Vesicular Disease which did involve some additional visits by inspectors to those normally planned.

Comment on other aspects of departmental work is made under the respective headings.

WATER SUPPLIES

A few premises in the rural area are still not connected to a mains supply provided by the Water Company. In each instance the isolated nature of the properties involved is the governing factor.

Sampling of water supply to the area continues to be carried out as a routine measure by the Water Company, samples being obtained at the source of supply and point of distribution. All sources of supply are outside the Maidstone Rural District with the exception of the East Farleigh Pumping Station. Samples are being taken of the raw water and water following treatment prior to supply, these samples being submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analyses. A typical result from a chemical analysis is as follows:-

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in Solution	(Dried at 180°C)	..	..	..	685
Solids in Solution	after ignition	..	..	..	645
Chlorides as Chlorine	.. .. ..	..	..	..	44
Carbonate Hardness	as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	340
Non Carbonate Hardness	as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	160
Total Hardness	as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	500
Total Alkalinity	as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	340
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.. .. ..	..	..	..	N.D.
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.. .. ..	..	..	..	N.D.
Nitrate Nitrogen	.. .. ..	..	..	..	16
Nitrite Nitrogen	.. .. ..	..	..	..	N.D.
Oxygen Absorbed in 15 Minutes at 27°C	.. .. ..	..	..	..	0.03
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 Hours at 27°C	.. .. ..	..	..	..	0.16

Opinion: This water is of high organic purity

Examination of Water Supplies during the year:-

	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Not Satis- factory	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Not Satis- factory
Statutory supply undertakings	10	10	-	-	-	-
Private sources pipe to dwellings	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other private sources	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Springs	-	-	-	-	-	-

During the year under review, no problems relating to water supply were encountered. As in previous years attention was paid to the supply provided at Hop Camps during the picking season, but as indicated above no unsatisfactory conditions were detected.

The following table, supplied by the Water Company gives an indication of (a) the number of dwelling houses and (b) the estimated number of the population supplied from public water mains.

Parish	Houses Supplied (a)	Estimated Population (b)
Barming	569	1,850
Bearsted	2,099	5,755
Boughton Monchelsea	572	1,580
Coxheath	1,085	3,770
East Farleigh	403	1,310
West Farleigh	114	445
Hunton	194	495
Linton	159	575
Loose	708	2,120
Marden	906	2,595
Nettlestead	194	680
Otham	155	450
Staplehurst	1,494	4,485
Teston	223	585
Yalding	950	2,685

Information received from the Mid Kent Water Company indicates that they have been involved in the laying of 4,738 yards of new water mains to new and existing properties within the area. Indication of the size of mains laid is contained in the following table:-

Parish	Yards	Size
Bearsted	138	3"
	374	4"
Boughton Monchelsea	98	3"
	1276	4"
	1759	6"
Coxheath	175	3"
	150	4"

The Fluoride Content of Water Supplies

The fluoride content is negligible and is less than 0.1 parts per million.

Swimming Baths

There are seven swimming pools at seven schools in the district one of which is privately owned, these are situated in the parishes of Bearsted, Loose, Boughton Monchelsea, Marden and Staplehurst.

As in previous years routine visits were made to the swimming baths and samples of the swimming pool water that were taken gave satisfactory results.

REFUSE AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

In the year under review no major problems presented themselves in relation to refuse collection. The cesspool cleansing section were work studied during 1971 and the early part of 1972 and the scheme put into operation on the 12th June, 1972.

Generally the scheme can be said to be successful. Such difficulties that did occur could be attributed to the shortage of drivers with Heavy Goods Vehicle licences. Another contributory factor must obviously be the ever increasing shortage of labour created by sickness and annual leave entitlement.

A new development which may also have an effect on the services in the future is the introduction of Plating and Testing Local Authorities vehicles. This requirement means that provision must be made for adequate repair and preparation prior to testing and highlights the essential need for regular maintenance.

Manpower

The establishment in connection with the Public Cleansing Service during the year was as follow:-

(a) Refuse Collection	17 men
(b) Refuse Disposal	One tractor driver engaged on refuse tip
(c) Cesspool Emptying prior to Work Study (Jan. - June)	6 men
Cesspool Emptying following Work Study (June - Dec.)	5 men

Labour Statistics

	<u>1972</u>
Men employed on refuse collection	24
Men employed on cesspool cleansing	7
Men employed on refuse disposal	1
Holidays	309 days
Sickness	465 days
Accidents	24 days
Absenteeism	29 days
Leave (Compassionate)	23 days

Abandoned Vehicles

Vehicles abandoned are dealt with under the Removal and Disposal Regulations, 1969. In 1972 it was necessary to arrange for the removal and disposal of 33 vehicles.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The Department collects, on request, bulky domestic refuse from householders. This service is always subject to the labour and equipment being available and in this respect sometimes involves a little delay. Similarly, a considerable amount of time and expense is involved in the periodical clearance of roadside ditches and verges desecrated by the litter lout.

In addition a refuse bay was provided at the entrance of the Laddingford Tip to enable ratepayers, outside of normal hours, to dispose of unwanted bulky items.

Nevertheless, regardless of facilities offered, the problem of excess refuse and illicit dumping continues to increase and presents a formidable task to the department throughout the year.

Refuse Disposal

This is achieved by the controlled tipping method at our Laddingford Tip. The general conditions continue to be satisfactory and effective control has been maintained by the use of the four-wheel drive Hough H.30 International Excavator. During the year continued efforts were made to eliminate nuisances caused by insects, vermin and fire. No complaints were received concerning the tip operation.

Cesspool Emptying

During the year 1972 the free entitlement provided continued to be as follows:-

Individual premises with individual cesspools being entitled to three free 1,400 gallon loads per annum and groups of properties, served by a communal cesspool, six free emptyings per annum.

During the year a total of 5,310 loads involving 7,434,000 gallons were collected and transported to disposal sites.

Depot

All cleansing and refuse vehicles are garaged at the Coxheath Depot, with the one exception of the Hough Excavator which is stationed at Laddingford Tip.

Facilities provided in relation to storage, garaging, bulk fuel purchasing and minor vehicle servicing continues to show overall benefits in the operation of the cleansing fleet.

Drainage and Sanitation

No major schemes were commenced during 1972 but the joint scheme involving this Authority, Tonbridge Rural District Council and Cranbrook Rural District Council was completed. The works serving this scheme being situated in the Tonbridge Rural District parish of Horsmonden.

During the year the Engineer and Surveyor's Department have been actively engaged in preparatory work which, if approved, will provide main drainage to part of the East Farleigh parish area in 1973. Similarly, preparatory work involving a greater part of the same parish was also instigated.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

HOUSING

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,495
Number of other visits under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	192
Number of drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Number of drainage visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	198
Number of visits made in respect of Improvement Grants and Building Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	711

FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and meat inspection visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	186
Number of visits re Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Number of visits re Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of visits re Food and Drugs Act	642

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of visits re infectious diseases	79
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GENERAL - PUBLIC HEALTH

Number of visits under Public Health Acts	230
Refuse Disposal and Collection	533
Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	280
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Hop Pickers' Camp	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	387
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	191
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
Diseases of Animals and Waste Food Order Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Interviews with Builders, Architects, Owners, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	316
Collection and delivery of samples to Public Health Laboratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Revisits to premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Child Minding	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Work Study Meetings	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

GENERAL STATISTICS

HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS

Walls and Ceilings	130
Rising and penetrating dampness remedied	30
Repairs to defective windows and doors	143
Chimney stacks repaired	25
General repairs to roofs	42
Provision for food storage	17
Repairs to staircases	27
Repointing to brickwork	25
Repair or replacement of floors	89
Provision of adequate ventilation	93
Provision of adequate lighting	93
Replacement/treatment of timber	15
Provision of central heating	18
Decoration	38
Provision of hot water supply	61
Provision of baths or showers and bathrooms	61
Provision of wash-hand basins	62
Provision of damp-proof course	29
Provision of adequate water supply	29
Rewiring	30
Kitchen Modernisation	26
Provision of external paving	17

DRAINAGE

Provision of septic tanks	7
Provision of cesspools	4
Repairs to eaves guttering and downspouts	100
Sinks provided and/or repaired	54
Repairs to closets	-
Provision of inspection covers	3
Provision of flush closets	62
Repairs to drains	3
Provision of new drainage	43

HOUSING

I	1 (a)	Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	1,495
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	..					1,574
	2 (a)	Houses demolished in clearance areas	..	..				0
	(b)	Houses demolished not in clearance areas	..	..				0
	3 (a)	Unfit houses closed	..	..	..	..	..	1
	(b)	Parts of unfit houses closed	..	..	..	..		0
	4 (a)	Number of persons displaced from houses to be closed or demolished	..	..	..	..		2
	(b)	Number of families displaced from houses to be closed or demolished	..	..	..	..		1
	5.	Unfit houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	18
	6.	Other houses in which defects were remedied after informal action under the Housing or Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	50
	7.	Unfit houses in temporary use	..	..	..	..		0
	8.	Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	0
	9.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts						
	(a)	Number of houses in respect of which statutory notices were served	..	..	..			0
	(b)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices by						
	(i)	Owners	..	..	..	..	..	0
	(ii)	Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..		0

II Housing Act, 1957, Part 4, Overcrowding

A	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	..	..	..	..	..	4
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	..	..				7
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	..	..	..			34
B	(1)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	..	..	..	..	..	2
C	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	..	..	..	..	..	1
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	..	..	..	..	8
D	(1)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	0

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Property owners have been encouraged, as in previous years, to take advantage of improvement grants wherever possible and it is encouraging to see tangible evidence in the raising of property standards.

It has been indicated in previous reports that a great deal of the inspectors time and indeed that of the clerical staff is involved and this year has been no exception.

It is noticeable during this particular year that the preponderance of applications were for discretionary grants involving in many instances a maximum grant of £1,000.00 as opposed to standard grants where the permissible maximum is £450.00.

Improvement grants carried out on properties within the district have resulted in the provision of the following amenities:-

17	Ventilated food stores
61	Hot water supplies
61	Baths or showers and bathrooms
62	Wash-hand basins
62	Water Closets

A total of 87 applications for grant were submitted, only one being refused, 69 being in respect of discretionary grants and the remaining 18 standard grant applications. A total of £47,242.36 has been paid in respect of completed grant schemes. £41,031 of this sum relates to 38 completed discretionary grants and £6,211.36 to 25 completed standard grants.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Owners may apply under the 1969 Housing Act for Qualification Certificates which, when granted, enables them to raise the rents of their properties to an economic level.

Once again the number of applications involved have increased over those of last year. The following applications have been made:-

Applications under Section 45 received	27
" " " 45 granted	12
" " " 45 refused	2
" " " 46 (provisional approval) received	3
" " " 46 (provisional approval) granted	8

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Standard

1. No. of applications Received

No. of applications approved

No. of applications Refused

2. No. of dwellings - works completed

3. Amount paid in Grants £6,211.36

4. Average Grant per house £ 248.45

Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
14	4
13	4
-	-
14	11

Discretionary

1. No. of applications Received

No. of applications Approved

No. of applications Refused

2. No. of dwellings - works completed

3. Amount paid in Grants £41,031.00

4. Average Grant per house £ 707.43

Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
41	28
40	28
1	-
38	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by Inspectors 79

Reports made to M.O.H.

(a) On cases of reported infectious diseases
and of contacts:-

Salmonella 3

Scarlet Fever 7

(b) Travellers returning from epidemic or
endemic areas:-

Typhoid 1

In conjunction with the necessary investigations, further visits were required to the premises concerned and to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Hall to deliver bacteriological samples.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	0	
Inspections of Factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	51			
Inspections of Factories without mechanical power	..	..	0				
Inspection of Builders' sites for Sanitary Accommodation	..	1							
Inspection of closed Factory premises or premises with no employees	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Factories with mechanical power - Informal Notices served	..	0							
Factories with mechanical power - Informal Notices completed	0	
Factories without mechanical power - Informal Notices served	0
Factories without mechanical power - Informal Notices completed	0
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

Seven visits were made during the year to Outworkers' premises which proved satisfactory.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1972
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MAIDSTONE
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

- 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	51	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	78	51	-	-

- 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section (133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of pro- secutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of in- stances of work in un- wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecu- tions (7)
Wearing (Making Apparel) etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas Stockings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upholstery	3	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L	7	-	-	-	-	-

CARAVAN SITES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Proprietor or Owner</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Caravans</u>
Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	25
Hartridge Farm Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. K.A. and Mrs. M.R.G. Chambers	110
The Retreat, Nettlestead	Mrs. P. Lamb	30
"Apple Acres", The Retreat Caravan Park, Nettlestead	Mr. R.W. Lamb	50
Slaughterhouse Lane, Staplehurst	Mrs. G.N. Russell	2
Stilebridge, Marden	Maidstone R.D.C.	12
Broad Forstal, Marden	Mrs. M. and Mrs. G. Beaney	2

CARAVAN SITES FOR SEASONAL USE ONLY

Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	15
Medway Wharf Site, Nettlestead	Mr. A.C. Buffery, Medway Wharf Ltd.	10
Twyford Boatyard Site, Yalding	Mr. D.S. Chuter, 102 Blithdale Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.	18
Hampstead Cottage Caravan Park, Yalding	Mr. J. Breden	120
Riverside Cafe, Twyford Bridge, Yalding	Mr. A.W. Forrest	2
The Anchor Inn, Yalding	Mr. D. Brenchley and Mrs. M. Brenchley	3

Summary of Data

Number of inspections	..	..	..	9 ¹ / ₄
Number of licensed sites	..	..	..	11
Applications for licences	..	..	..	0
Applications for licences refused	..	..	..	0

Similar to previous years, routine visits have been made to all caravan sites situated in the Maidstone Rural District area. As a result of a Home Office circular, joint visits were also made with a representative of the Kent County Council Fire Brigade in order to examine the fire fighting facilities provided on each site. Towards the close of the year several sites were required to supplement their existing facilities and there is every indication that those who have not already met this requirement will do so early in 1973.

HOP PICKERS' CAMP

Total number of Hop Pickers' Camps in use	29
Number of huts in use (estimated)	313 + 66 Caravans
Estimated number of pickers	575
Number of inspections	59

The estimated number of pickers involved bear close comparison with those of last year. Once again there is evidence that hop pickers in many instances prefer the use of their own caravans and in so doing reduce the need to occupy hut accommodation provided by the farmer.

Routine inspections and surveillance of hop camps during the picking season revealed no unsatisfactory conditions and in this season it was not found necessary to take any precautionary measures with regard to the water supply of any camp.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The nature of the district ensures that problems and contraventions relating to the clean air legislation rarely arise. The most common cause of complaint is the burning of materials associated with the recovery of scrap. Numerous visits were made to one establishment in the area where carelessness gave rise to complaint.

One commercial enterprise encountered difficulty with its boiler emitting dark smoke at intervals, this was attributed to the firm's inability to obtain the correct fuel during a strike. Nevertheless both the instances referred to above involved a considerable amount of inspectors time in the taking of smoke observations, investigation and interviews with representatives of the company to effect an improvement.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

During the year, two new establishments applied for licences and applications were received for the renewal of licences from three of the existing establishments. These applications were all granted. Inspections were made during the year to ensure that the licensing conditions were being met.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Advice on the handling and storage of foodstuffs continues to be the prime purpose of routine visits and inspections. Once again the standard of hygiene and cleanliness in food premises has been seen to be of a good standard.

The following data is provided in accordance with the Minister's requirements:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Restaurants and Cafes	9	41
Grocery and General Provisions	48	123
Greengrocery	8	23
Sugar Confectionery	13	29
Bakehouses	3	8
Wines and Spirits Off Licences	4	7
Bakery Shops	5	12
Licensed Premises	64	18
Butchers	10	21
Fish Shops (Wet and Fried)	4	11
Food Warehouses	5	28
Canteens	17	13
Slaughterhouses	2	14
Stalls and Vehicles	Variable	20
T O T A L S	<u>192</u>	<u>368</u>

SHOPS ACT

Number of Shops (including Public Houses) 219

During the year 1972, 387 inspections were made of shops within the district to check compliance with the provisions of the Act.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

The following complaints concerning food alleged to be not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser were received during the year:-

- (1) Oranges affected by mould growth.
- (2) Sausages affected by mould growth.
- (3) Cabbage alleged to be 'bad'.
- (4) Cheese affected by mould growth.
- (5) Milk bottle containing a piece of glass.
- (6) Pork meat contaminated by a dirty meat hook.
- (7) Corned beef containing a foreign substance.
- (8) Loaf of bread containing a piece of denatured dough. (Three separate complaints.)
- (9) Frozen chicken contaminated by insect eggs.

In case Number three, the complaint was not upheld on investigation and in the cases, numbered eight, concerning the denatured dough found in loaves of bread, verbal warnings were issued. Following investigation and careful consideration of the other complaints, warning letters were issued to the persons concerned stressing the consequences of any future similar occurrences.

MILK SUPPLIES

Number of registered distributors 33

Number of registered dairies NIL

The function of sampling milk supplied at retailers' premises is the responsibility of the Kent County Council.

Statistics submitted by the Kent County Council, contained elsewhere in this report, show that 24 samples were obtained from retailers within the Maidstone Rural District. In every instance the results proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	<u>Tons. (nearest)</u>
1. Meat	
(a) slaughterhouses	0.1
(b) wholesale premises	NIL
(c) retail shops	1.0
2. Cooked meats and meat products	NIL
3. Canned meats	0.1
4. Other canned foods	3.0
5. Fish (fresh)	0.1
6. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)	0.9
7. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown	0.7
8. Other Foods	0.2
	<hr/>
T O T A L	6.1
	<hr/>

Number of prosecutions made under Section 2 - None

Number of prosecutions made under Section 8 - None

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

General Narrative accompanying prescribed
Annual Report for year ending
31st December, 1972.

Only eleven new premises were registered during the year compared with nineteen last year. Deletions from the register where premises closed or were no longer subject to the Act, accounted for the drop of total registered premises from 102 in 1971 to 93 at the end of the year under review.

No complaints were received during the year and inspections were carried out in a routine manner. Inspections were made of 91% of registered premises and only minor, easily corrected, contraventions were noted. I am pleased to be able to report again that co-operation from employers remains good and it was not necessary for any legal proceedings to be taken.

Six accidents were reported. Five were of a nature where it was apparent that the accident was not the result of non-compliance with the Act and therefore were not investigated. One involved injury sustained from a power driven vehicle in motion. H.M. Factory Inspectorate requested information on this category of accident to assist in the identification of areas where preventive measures might be available. An investigation was made and full details were supplied to the Factory Inspectorate but it was not found necessary for any remedial measures to be taken by the employer.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS
& RAILWAY PREMISES
ACT, 1963

THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963					
TABLE A Registrations and general inspections		(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
	Offices		3	18	14
	Retail Shops		7	68	64
	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses		1	5	5
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		-	2	2
	Fuel storage depots		-	-	-
	TOTALS		11	93	85
TABLE B Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises		141			
TABLE C Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace		(1) Class of workplace	(2) Number of persons employed		
	Offices		208		
	Retail Shops		261		
	Wholesale departments, Warehouses		202		
	Catering Establishments open to the public		6		
	Canteens		5		
	Fuel storage depots		-		
	TOTAL :		682		
	TOTAL: MALES		359		
	TOTAL: FEMALES		323		

TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS

Class of premises (1)	No. of exemptions Current at 31st December (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during the year (3)	No. of applica- tions refused or exemptions withdrawn during the year (4)	No. of cases in Cols. (3) and (4) where employees opposed applica- tion (5)	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption	
					No. made (6)	No. made (7)
Part I - Space (Sec. 5(2))						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part II - Temperature (Sec. 6)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 9)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part IV - Washing Facilities (Sec. 10(1))						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licensed slaughterhouses 2
 Number of premises cleansed during the year 2

MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>No. of Animals Slaughtered</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
West End, Marden	1,323	67.7%
High Street, Staplehurst ..	427	32.3%
TOTAL	<u>1,750</u>	<u>100%</u>

Carcases Inspected and Condemned	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number killed	287	-	-	797	666	1,750
Number <u>not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	-	-	21	9½	157
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	5	5
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

As in previous years, the majority of all carcasses examined have been for the trade of the butchers owning the slaughterhouses. A high standard and quality has been maintained and co-operation between the owners and the department has been on an amicable basis.

Government requirements i.e., 100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered, has again been achieved without the necessity of involving overtime by the inspectorate.

MEAT INSPECTION

Reason for Condemnation

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Completely Condemned</u>	<u>Partially Condemned</u>
Abscesses	0	22
Arthritis	0	2
Ascaris Lumbricoides	0	21
Bruising	0	1
Cirrhosis	0	26
Congestion	0	9
Contamination	0	1
Fractured Bones	0	2
Hydronephrosis	0	1
Liver Fluke	0	17
Mastitis	0	1
Nephritis	0	1
Parasitic Infections	0	4
Pericarditis	0	28
Peritonitis	0	7
Pleurisy	0	28
Pneumonia	0	30
Tuberculosis	0	5

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

At the close of the year the number of licensed plants still operating in the district remains at three. These premises were regularly inspected during the year and their operation and conditions were found to be satisfactory. Additional inspections were made of all licensed plants immediately following the outbreak, in this Country, of Swine Vesicular Disease.

FOODS AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December 1972

	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory</u>
Milk	24	-
Butter, margarine, lard, cooking fats, cheese (including processed cheese) ..	6	-
Tinned meats, meat, fish, fish and meat pastes	6	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, beverages, minerals, cordials	14	3
Jams, preserves, honey, jellies	1	-
Dried fruit, raw fruit, vegetables, tinned fruit and vegetables	7	-
Pickles, sauces, vinegar, condiments ..	8	-
Drugs, medicines	6	-
Beer, wines, spirits	9	-
Miscellaneous	3	-
	<u>84</u>	<u>4</u>

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Stewed Steak in Gravy

Slightly deficient in meat. Follow up sample satisfactory.

Lemon Cream Pie

Did not contain cream. Importers advised on labelling requirements.

Grapefruit Juice 100%

S. & S. Services Limited, Abford House, Wilton Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1., pleaded not guilty to selling juice not of the substance demanded. Defendants claimed they were only agents and not importers. Case dismissed. (Note:- Juice when analysed only found to be 58% natural juice).

Grapefruit Juice 100%

Found only to be 75% pure juice. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food advised so that diplomatic pressure may be exerted on German packers.

ICE CREAM

In addition bacteriological samples of unwrapped ice cream were taken by the department from three premises and all were found to be of the highest standard i.e. Grade 1.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Inspections and Surveys made under Rodent Control

<u>Properties other than Sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non- Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	9,524	964
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	998	39
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	795	39
(ii) Mice	157	39
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	247	-
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	3	-
(ii) Mice	-	-

The service offered by the Council provides for the treatment of domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial premises. Domestic premises are treated free of charge whilst all others are charged to cover the cost of materials, labour and transport. The number of treatments made during the year are marginally lower than those of last year, this being attributable to the hiatus created by the retirement of your Pest Officer and his subsequent replacement.

In addition to the normal requests for the service, routine inspections and test treatments are carried out at all the Council's premises in particular the Laddingford Refuse Tip and Sewage Works situated within the various parishes.

PEST CONTROL

In addition to the above mentioned works, your Pest Officer has dealt with the following infestations:-

Flies	3	Ground Beetles	4
Fleas	12	Bats	2
Cockroaches	3	Weevils	2
Silver Fish	2	Wasps	2
Ants	5	Squirrels	3 (advice given)

As mentioned previously Mr. Curties, the Council's Pest Officer, retired on 15th May after twenty two years consientious and efficient service to this Council. Mr. E. Woodcock, who has been appointed as his successof, is proving to be an enthusiastic and consientious officer.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of
Mortality in the year 1972

Area	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population					Rate per 1,000		
		Live births	All Causes	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	Cancer of Lung	Other Cancer	Total Deaths Under 1 year	Live Births	Related Births
England and Wales	14.8		12.1	✕	✕	✕	17	12	Stillbirths
Hollingbourn R.D.	14.7		12.2	-	0.55	1.24	19	19	
Malling R.D.	15.5		12.1	0.036	0.6	1.26	16	4	
Maidstone R.D.	16.7		11.1	0.04	0.4	2.1	13	11	
Maidstone Borough	15.5		11.6	0.08	0.6	1.79	10	18	
County of Kent	15.0		12.5	0.02	0.48	1.30	14	10	

✕ Figures not yet available

GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population 1972	..	..	..	29,380
Area (in acres)	..	..	..	34,487
Density	..	..	..	0.85
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population				
Crude	..	..	..	18.1
Corrected	..	..	..	16.7
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population				
Crude	..	..	..	13.0
Corrected	..	..	..	11.1
	Male	Female	Total	
Births	274	257	531	
Deaths	167	214	381	
Excess of births over deaths	107	43	150	
Tuberculosis death rate -				
Pulmonary	NIL
Non Pulmonary	0.0004
Cancer death rate per 1,000 population	2.62

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